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VOLUME XXXXVII

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NUMBER 1

HERE AND THERE

The civil authorities of the garden city of Cachan, close by Arcueil, interested by the summer school started by M. LeGoff, requested him to organize a similar school at Cachan, which he did. There were seventy children present on the opening day.

The success of the All Saints' Day services in the St. Ouen Chapel a year ago was repeated on November 1st, last. Visitors to the cemetery kept the chapel filled all afternoon. Over 500 persons were present at the successive services, some of them remaining the entire time as Pastors Bonifas, Jalaquier and Dentan followed each other in the pulpit. The younger members of the *Maison Verte* and *Ménilmontant* distributed in the cemetery over 1800 tracts and Gospels.

Mrs. Booth-Clibborn was recently in Paris and for twelve nights running she held audiences of 1200 persons spell-bound. More than 300 persons belonging to every grade of society asked to hear more of the Gospel. M. Chastand offered the help of the Mission which undertook the continuation of the spiritual work begun by Mrs. Booth-Clibborn. The first Sunday night following 500 persons filled the auditorium of the Pierre-Levée building.

M. Chastand writes of being greatly encouraged by the success of the Vacation Colonies during the past summer, the total number of children being 841, 640 of whom were in the Mission's own colonies, the remaining 201 being cared for by Pastor Nick in the colony which he organized several years since on the coast near Boulogne. Eight Daily Vacation Bible Schools were conducted, the total attendance being 886, distributed as follows: At the *Maison Verte*, 245; at Grenelle, 64; at *Bicnvenue*, 140; at Arcueil, 105; at Rouen, 120; at Fives-Lille, 130; at Nemours, 57 and at Esbly, 25. When will the Vacation Colonies be adequate in number and equipment to receive all these boys and girls and to give them also the advantage of a summer in God's great out-of-doors?

On September 8th, last, in the Church of Espérou, Val-leraugue (Gard), Dr. Pierre Nick, the second son of Pastor Henri Nick, of Lille, was married to Mlle Odèle Gerber, daughter of Mme J. Gerber-Kieffer. The names of Pastor Nick's children have been household words in many American homes for many years and the best wishes of all these friends will follow the newly wedded pair.

The chapel-boats of late have been adding to their other activities that of the rôle of the Good Samaritan. Their "pharmacies" are greatly appreciated by the people of the river villages and the canal boatmen. MM. Chollet and Claerhout make the best use of their talents as amateur nurses and doctors. For example, a little child was left alone in the world as the result of his mother's death. M. and Mme Claerhout took care of him for two months until he was admitted to an orphanage. In another case parents were found to adopt a little abandoned boy. Another of these disinherited ones was sent to the Mission's orphanage at Châtillon.

Some amusing incidents occur in connection with the Daily Vacation Bible Schools, in Paris. The director of one of these, in speaking of the types of the poor children who attend, says: "Their vocabulary often tells the story of the homes they come from. For example, Jacob sold Esau his 'Benedictine'; Lydia sometimes sells 'powder' to put on the cheeks. One child evidently was living near an automobile factory, for according to him Moses built a 'garage' in which to house the Ark of the Covenant"! They are good-hearted children, nevertheless, as is shown by the little chap who on hearing of the distress of the Armenians brought an orange from his lunch as a gift to them.

A propos the account in the November RECORD of the inauguration of the new Vacation Colony of *Coqueréaumont*, it is interesting to record the impressions of the results attained as noted by Mme Riebel whose picture in the dispensary also appeared in the last number:

"Now that the children have all returned to their homes, homes, alas, where the examples of their elders are none too good, we are hoping that their stay at *Coqueréaumont* will prove to have been from every

point of view a blessing to them all. They were a pretty undisciplined lot when they came and made us not a little trouble, but they also often gave us much joy. The larger girls of their own accord asked that we pray with them every night in their dormitory. The monitors had opportunities every day for individual talks which revealed these untrained souls as fruitful ground for sowing the seed of the Word of God. Nearly every child insisted on having a New Testament of his own and my husband found it easy to have personal conversation with each one of the larger boys. There were many evidences of a genuine affection on the part of the children for all of us who had charge of them. It was my misfortune to be obliged to be absent for part of the summer. An acute attack of appendicitis made an operation necessary, but when I came back to the *château*, the little boys who slept on the second floor even took off their shoes as they went upstairs so as not to disturb me. The day of my return, all the children assembled on the steps of the *château* and with full lungs sang the hymn, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." I was greatly moved. The dispensary proved invaluable, for despite the vigor and health of the children in this beautiful country-side there were a good many minor attacks of illness and the usual number of bruises and injuries."

A recent interesting innovation on the part of French Protestant leaders who have the evangelization of their country very much at heart is the weekly broadcasting done by *La Cause*.

In a letter to his local groups throughout France, Pastor Durrleman writes: "We all feel, do we not, in our various fields of action, the need of the sense of collaboration in our work, the common end of which is the gaining of France to Jesus Christ?" Pastors Durrleman, Lauga and other preachers are reaching many thousands of the scattered Protestants of France through their weekly radio talks. Letters from listeners-in show the interest with which these talks are received. Space permits the citation of only the following:

"Permit me to thank you for the words of wisdom and comfort which come to me every Thursday over the radio from Paris. These words are a sweet echo of hope for those who like myself have been great sufferers and who continue to suffer."

"For two months I have been listening to the religious conferences sent out over the radio by *La Cause*. To my regret I shall not be able to hear more of your talks, but I desire nevertheless to continue my instruction in your religion which a number of years since awakened my interest."

"I have been listening for a long time to the Protestant conferences of *La Cause* and I cannot forego the pleasure of telling you how splendid and clear as water from a rock I find the philosophy contained in your words. Please permit a Catholic, whose ancestors were Huguenots from the time of Henry IV to that of Louis XIV (a fact in which I take great pride) to express with all his heart an ardent *merci*."

NINETY DAYS TO GO

During the first eighteen months of M. Chastand's administration his magic touch has been felt in every department of the Mission. In material equipment, in personnel and in earnestness of purpose, the Mission stands today on a vantage ground unsurpassed, if not unequalled, in its history. The aftermath of the war is still all too much in evidence, but as its memories have receded and as France has been growing again in strength the Mission has been getting ready for an unparalleled service. Much has been printed during the year in the pages of the *RECORD* of the alterations and enlargements of the Mission's posts, of the purchase of new properties and of the efficiency and spiritual force of the staff of workers. M. Chastand's example has been contagious. He never appears in a Paris or provincial station that his energy and his words do not start new ideals going and awaken new aspirations in the hearts of all who hear him. His personal faith is a vital, electrifying force.

All of which is written by way of justification of the appeal the enthusiastic new Director makes to his American friends this year. In twenty years at Nantes, he showed clearly the stuff he was made of. The qualities which led to his great achievements there—a growth not of a hundred-fold but of a thousand-fold—have been exhibited every minute since he came to Paris. Naturally, he himself does not make his appeal on his record, though that might not be unbecoming or unworthy in view of his ambitions and hopes for the *Mission Populaire*, but on the grounds of those ambitions and hopes and in view of the service to be rendered to his fellow countrymen. If the recent increase in devotion and efficiency casts a reliable horoscope, the days of greatest service are just ahead, *provided the financial support is supplied!*

What is M. Chastand's appeal? Not for everything for which he would like to ask. Efficiency in properties and in personnel to a hundred per cent., or to the margin of oppor-

tunity, would call for many years' budgets compacted into one!

After figuring carefully on the basis of the loyalty and capacity of the American Auxiliaries, the President of the Association, at the Presidents' Conference, in New York, asked the delegates to return home prepared to urge their Auxiliary members to increase their gifts by *twenty-five per cent.*! This means that every dollar giver contribute \$1.25; every five-dollar subscriber \$6.25, and so on. Naturally, a few special gifts in substantial amounts would go far toward insuring the total result.

It is ninety days to the closing of the Treasurer's books. If every officer, collector and member of every auxiliary will not let a day of the ninety go unimproved, will make at least one solicitation, or, better, collect one contribution each day from January 1st to April 1st, the end will be attained and we shall all meet in New Haven, the second Wednesday of May—with rejoicing and M. Chastand, to use his own words, will “transmute our dollars into spiritual results” larger than ever achieved before! “Ninety days to go!”

ALCOHOLISM AND THE MISSION

The Mission's problem, or problems, in connection with alcoholism vary in different parts of France. In Nice, M. Malan states, there is really no problem at all. The situation at its worst is found in the northern Departments, where the untoward winter climate, the driving life of industry and other factors lead to a large consumption of gin and other intoxicants. Only first-hand acquaintance with the actual facts of life can give one any adequate idea of the horrors following in the wake of the hard liquor habit.

For many years, Pastor Nick has been carrying on a victorious campaign, as the result of which there are in Lille hundreds of happy homes which were once homes of misery. More recently, Pastor Ferret, at Roubaix, has taken the bull by the horns and even carried his case into the courts. His anti-alcoholic exhibit of a few years ago, at the *Solidarité*, attracted 5000 visitors and many teachers in Roubaix asked

for the loan of the exhibits for use in the public schools. One would have to make house-to-house visits, however, to realize the amount of misery there is and to appreciate the significance of the dramatic float in the accompanying halftone. The latest word comes from Mlle Foëx who, it will be remembered, made the investigation of conditions at Arcueil which led M. Guex to organize the *Fraternité* in that suburb. Mlle Foëx has been attached for the last two years to the *Fraternité* at Rouen. There is room to cite only the two following stories from her report, "What Alcohol Does to Souls and Bodies":

"She made me think of a fairy princess disguised as a peasant. Beautiful, her white hair framing a rosy face despite her fifty years. Distinguished and fine, fine in her sweet and intelligent expression, fine in her irreproachable appearance as well as in her language full of imagery and fine in the attractiveness of the little jewel of a modest apartment in which she lives.

"I was drawn to see her often and one day she confided to me the dark secret of her home life: Her husband, a working-man, apparently honorable, had been drinking for twenty-five years. He did not beat her, but he hated her because of the contrast in their characters and every hour which he spent at home he made of it a hell. Whenever she spoke he started a scene, flinging back at her words of insult with the apparent aim of lowering her in the eyes of her children. Anything and everything in connection with the running of the house was a pretext for his criticisms in which there was never a truce. All this she told me with an unmoved countenance, her eyes turned toward heaven, where she found all her hope. In the presence of this almost infinite sadness, borne, however, with so proud a smile, my admiration was without bounds.

"Reports came to me that she was acting strangely, that she was either ill or on the way to the mad-house. I hastened to her. Shall I ever forget that vision—the pallid face, the haggard eyes beneath the crown of beautiful, white hair! Seizing my hand, she put her finger on my lips and said, 'Hush, don't speak, he is hidden somewhere near hoping to make me suffer. He wants to kill me. Don't leave me. He would make a martyr of me in order that he may marry again. He plays the spy on me; look, there, everywhere are his eyes watching me, his hands stretched out seeking to seize me. Don't use any religious words, they make him hate me. I dare not even pray.' She was silent. I tried to quiet her by speaking of the remorse her husband would feel when he realized that she was ill. She turned her eyes again toward me, seeming to hear. Again seizing my arm and with her vacant eyes staring about the room, she exclaimed, 'Go, don't stay to be assassinated as I am going to be.' As I hesitated, she exclaimed, 'But don't you hear those voices . . . the voices . . . the voices . . . the voices!'"

The second story is this:

"Thirty children of alcoholic parents, children from seven to fourteen years old, were attending the class of the Band of Hope. The teacher wrote certain questions on the blackboard. These questions treated of the lessons in temperance they had studied during the year: Illness due to alcoholism; the losses caused by this vice in the various types of business and industry; the disorders it leads to in family life.

"The members of the class sighed, they could not seem to recall anything they had studied. Knitting their brows and sucking their pencils they continued to insist that they had forgotten. Thereupon the teacher said, 'Stop thinking of your lesson, but write down simply what you know on the subject.' At once all foreheads were bent over their desks and pencils started going rapidly as they wrote.

"An hour later when the teacher came to read their papers, he was simply amazed. In fantastic style, naïve, but most realistic, the children had described scenes which he had never dreamed of. He found himself at once present in their homes and seeing it all for himself, unbelievable acts of cruelty and terrorized faces which imprinted themselves forever on his memory. Could it be that it was actually children writing all that? These little members of the Band of Hope had not written out the lessons they had learned in the class, they had recorded the facts of their tragic lives, the lives of children of the victims of alcohol."



M. FERRET AND HIS ANTI-ALCOHOLIC FLOAT

MÉNILMONTANT

Mlle ELSIE DE GARIS

The year 1928 started with the request of a girl of seventeen for religious instruction in order that she might join a church. A native of Limoges, her older sister who had come to work in an automobile factory in Paris brought her to our hall. This sister was one of the first little girls (she was then hardly three years old) to attend the Mission's school in the *Clos Sainte Marie* section of Limoges. Through a combination



Mlle ELSIE DE GARIS, SECRETARY TO THE DIRECTOR

of circumstances, which proves once more that nothing is in vain and that God's hand manifestly leads us, she met the evangelist she had known at Limoges who sent her to our hall and she has not missed a single meeting since. The younger sister realizes fully what her confession of faith implies. M. Guex was happy to prepare her for her first communion and she was privileged to be the last of his pupils.

Toward the end of the year, the *fiancé* of this young woman expressed his desire also to receive religious instruction and M. Bonifas has taken charge of his preparation. In intro-

ducing him the young woman said simply, "He is not my *fiancé*, for I have told him that he cannot be that until he believes in the same things that I do." Toward this end she loaned him religious books and tracts and he was struck immediately by the beauty of the New Testament which he did not know at all. We have every reason to believe that his will be an absolute and sincere conversion.

About two years ago, at one of our meetings for Biblical study on Thursday evenings, I spoke incidentally of the prayer meeting as being the most perfect expression of the spiritual life of any Christian group. I said no more and did not propose to organize such a meeting, fully realizing that anything that did not start spontaneously from the young people themselves would be only a formality and utterly lacking in sincerity. But last month at the end of the study period we were working out the next month's programme and as usual I asked for some suggestions. Three young people, one a married man, said almost together, "Couldn't we have a prayer-meeting?" "Indeed, yes; when do you wish to start and what evening?" "Next Tuesday if you are free. Tuesday is our 'Good Deed' night and we can take all the time we wish, not having any studying to do." We held then our first prayer-meeting with five present, and those prayers, so simple and touching in their naïve childish confidence, have been a great comfort and joy to those of us who work among these young people.

A couple whom financial difficulties had kept away from us for sometime returned shortly and showed more real interest than ever. The husband, a carpenter, put himself voluntarily at our disposition for any work he could do at the *salle*. And this brings me to the "Good Deeds."

This little group of young people meets on Tuesday evenings twice a month, to tidy up the books of the library, the hymn-books, clean the windows, etc., and when all this work is done they sing hymns and visit. The exterior of the hall was badly in need of cleaning, but inasmuch as our lease soon runs out and because there are so few of us, I hesitated to ask the Mission to go to that expense, but simply remarked one day that it was very dirty. When I arrived one Tuesday evening

shortly after, I found everybody at work washing down the façade in lye . . . and I have never been able to get a statement of the expenses incurred. It is our young carpenter who builds the platforms for all our entertainments and the others work willingly under him.

One of our girls was married last month. Herself a true Christian, she, nevertheless, married a man without any religion, but who openly admitted that he had been attracted by her beautiful life. Whenever his work allows, he comes to the meetings with her and this gives us much hope. Another young woman is becoming genuinely interested in our work.

Thursday evenings we hold an open meeting for all who wish to come and one night a young woman, lonely and sad, dropped in by chance. She has grown more cheerful during the six months she has come to us (never missing a meeting and coming sometimes without her supper) and said to me the other day that she had "found peace and joy in her heart at our hall."

Our section of the Blue Cross though only small is composed mostly of young people and is full of life and goes ahead joyously. One of the men has taken out a colporteur's license in order to be allowed to distribute anti-alcoholic tracts. Every Thursday a collection is taken and about 100 francs have been collected during the year. Our chapter has given to the main chapter of the Seine 274 francs.

But our work, of course, has also its less cheerful aspects—thus we are sorry not to see our attendance grow. Upon request, we started a Sunday School, but the number of children is small, though everyone is very interested and attentive. Our Sunday evening meetings bring only twenty or twenty-five people. I have been able to make only fifty calls during the past year; I suppose I ought to make that number every month. However, our people are most faithful and generous and love the Mission. The dues of the Blue Cross are always promptly paid; everybody contributed something according to his means toward the present we gave the young married couple and one of the men out of work sent me a beautiful box he had made out of empty shells during the war, with the request that I sell it for him in order that he might use the

money to have his child's shoes resoled. Some of the young people heard of this and decided each to contribute something in order that the box might remain the property of the Blue Cross and by it it was offered for sale for the benefit of the Chapter of the Seine. In this way thirty-eight francs were realized for the poor man out of work.

We collected for missions during the year 521 francs, plus ninety francs for the little black children at Gabon in whom Mme Bourelly is so interested. A special collection takes care of all refreshments and entertainments for the children as well as the young people. Everybody contributes from a willing heart and surely God sees this and gives us his blessing. Our joys far exceed our discouragements.

GÉRARDMER

Mlle M. MULLER

Upon examination of our children, the school physician, who was desirous of opening a special class for the undernourished and weak, found that they were all normal and of good health and that there was no need of such a class here. Our work at the Vacation Colony in combination with the erection of many new homes for working people is largely responsible for this result.

To take our anaemic, nervous and restless little city children out into the country with its pure air and quiet, to feed them nourishing food and, above all, to have them live in an atmosphere of love and peace is to fortify them against the rigors of the winter, their often crowded, damp and dreary homes and the pernicious influences of their life in the streets.

We believe that our Vacation Colonies do even more than that and that is why we rejoice as, summer after summer, we are able to take away some of these children and young girls to live together in a spirit of Christian love.

Our little house at Gérardmer sheltered sixteen in July and twenty-two during the following six weeks, happy school children, working girls and clerks. Some of them were there for the first time, expectant and eager, admiring the marvelous

views, while the old-timers were proud to show them about and to relate the memories attached to this or that favorite spot. The time passed quickly, the weather was lovely and we were able to spend every day out-doors. All meals were served under the shed, a recent addition to our outfit. Morning prayers were held on a little hilltop, covered with furze and from where there was a magnificent view.

After the housework was done—not always an easy task when games and plays were awaiting one—there still remained many long hours to spend out-doors, to gather berries or nuts. Then the bath in the lake with timid attempts at swimming; beautiful walks in the pine woods; the excursions into Alsace and the visit to the old castle, silent reminder of bygone days.

Bad manners, cruelty and temper on the part of some of the girls taught us some things and gave us enough to think about, while the young people realized that under the thin veneer of civilization, the quarrelsome, violent barbarian kept coming out and that they had need today, as always, of being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. It is a great privilege to be able to open the souls of children, at the age when they are most impressionable and before materialism has gotten hold of them, to the higher things and even if they leave us some years later they still retain something which makes them different from their comrades in the factory who have not been pupils in the School of Christ and they become sometimes the leaven in the bread.

It was due to our good American friends that we were able again to take the children with us, but, even at the usual low price, there were families who found it difficult to send theirs and quite often some little girl especially in need of fresh air and nourishing food could not go for lack of money. For instance, a girl of eleven who has three brothers of seventeen, thirteen and seven. The father drives a coal wagon which is not a very lucrative vocation. The mother works and earns about fifteen francs a day. They have a hard time to make ends meet, and there are many cases like that. When the father has a regular job he is generally able to provide for his family, that is to say, if he does not leave the larger part of his wages

at the saloon, but when he has to take anything that comes along the situation is very difficult.

We have already made several improvements in our colony, but there is still much to be done and our greatest wish is to have electricity installed, which would considerably reduce the fire hazard in a house with a thatched roof. We are hoping also to have some flowers and creepers alongside the house, thanks to a friend who has promised to help us. Also, we would like to have a cement floor under our new shed, because on rainy days we cannot stay there on account of the mud. But all this will come by degrees and even as it is our old farm holds much charm for those who year after year find there their physical and moral health.

BOYS' WORK AT NANTES

H. PORTAL

(Five or six years ago, M. Chastand added M. Portal to his staff at Nantes. M. Portal has proved himself in every way worthy of his chief's confidence. With the coming of Pastor Cadier to Nantes, however, M. Portal's equilibrium was somewhat disturbed, as Pastor Cadier brought with him a beautiful daughter who in September last became Mme Portal. As the bride and groom will remain at Nantes, the Mission is more than gainer.—EDITOR.)

BOY SCOUTS

With the year 1927-28, our troop was rejuvenated and in a sense enriched by the addition of new elements. These were the Wolfings of yesterday who having become the Boy Scouts of today have very largely and for the most part advantageously replaced and compensated for those who were absent during the vacation days.

The Wolfings are a proud lot of youngsters impatient to fulfil their *métier* and prepare themselves for the life of full-fledged Boy Scouts. We do not claim for them that they know in a minute everything that the scout programme includes, or that they realize its implication as to their future citizenship and, in particular, as to their place in the school of Christ. Probably many of them are carried away at first by the attrac-

tion of their uniform and the pleasure of out-door life in their hikes and in their games. As a matter of fact, we have been witness on the part of one of them of the denial of the very principles of the organization. Naturally a disappointment, but in what work are not disappointments to be found? On the other hand, what a joy it has been to see those who remained more and more loyal to the ideal of service, of kindness, of purity and of love, facing the every day temptations with firm resolution! What joy it has been furthermore to see the boys



M. AND MME PORTAL

who have been snatched from the vileness of their daily life living under the inspiration of the Gospel and enlisting themselves joyously and without hesitation in the service of their Captain, their Master and their Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ECOLE DE GARDE

Our *Ecole de Garde* progresses from year to year, notwithstanding the heavier school-work of its members as they advance from class to class. This school work keeps many of the boys away from the *Fraternité* for a large part of the time, but they always come back on Thursdays and Sundays. Of course, there are others whose absences are accounted for by their unhappy home surroundings and who without any parental control roam the streets and follow their own devices. Would that we might capture all these unfortunate ones and save them from the certain future toward which they are heading.

WOLFLINGS

In a preceding report, we said, "The Wolfings will, of course, be the Boy Scouts of tomorrow." This hope has already begun to be realized and in October we added eight Wolfings to our Boy Scout troop. Our days afield always prove an attraction and, especially in the springtime, whenever we leave town for the country for play in the fields and among the flowers our numbers are increased. Particularly do these excursions attract the children of unfortunate home surroundings. In our troop are boys of eight to twelve years whose lives are made up entirely of privations and sufferings. Now it is the case of a mother who drinks and has lost all interest in her children; now of a father who is out of work and who cannot provide bread or heat for his household. Again it is sickness or death which has robbed the family of its head: the father is perhaps paralyzed, or he is gone. Then it becomes the mother's duty to care for the family. Here is a recent instance: The father of one of the Wolfings of last year, overtaken with tuberculosis, is patiently awaiting the end. As the family is of the Catholic faith, the priest calls and first of all insists that the boy shall be removed from the public school

and entered in one of the Church schools. He gradually withdraws from the *Fraternité* and finally disappears. In view of the inadequate earnings of the mother, it becomes necessary that the father receive state help. What ought we to do in such a circumstance? It is not easy to answer. To abandon a family to the care of the state or the *curé* is, naturally, repugnant to us. It is the first and last desire of the *Fraternité* not to buy human souls, but to lead them to Jesus Christ in order that they may be saved.

NICE

ARNOLD MALAN

The family spirit more and more characterizes our meetings, so much so that we now have one meeting a week which we call a family gathering and which constitutes a veritable missionary group. Many of the members are the fruitage of our Thursday School.

This household group makes it possible for our faithful *habitués* to become better acquainted with each other and offers a splendid opportunity for more direct and intimate preaching. We begin our meeting informally, with conversation in common, with games, or reading, or work. Sometimes there are *tableaux vivants* or stereopticon views. At other times I have a questionnaire and at still others one of the younger members gives a talk. But the meeting always comes to a close with a selection from the Bible, a religious talk, singing of hymns and prayer, and so the supreme end of all our work is emphasized.

These meetings have been a source of great encouragement. Now someone asks us to pay a visit to an acquaintance who has been unwilling to come to the hall; often our prayers are asked for someone who is sick.

Our young people also feel the benefit of this happy atmosphere and join with us with good grace. It is an opportunity to make up in some measure for the want of sportive groups which we are unable to provide for our boys and girls for want of a playground and equipment, for we are confined

to the space within our four walls. But if our chance for play is limited, we at least have one whole day out of doors, namely, Ascension Day. Following the suggestion of the day, we go up to the top of a hill which overlooks two valleys, one of those rare spots which remain for excursionists, for building has been going on at such a rate at Nice that open spaces are more and more difficult to find. The population of the city is encroaching upon the country, a so-called sign of progress.

Our want of space and of equipment is especially felt in connection with our Thursday School. It requires an exceptional amount of skill to keep children, especially boys, interested for two hours within our four walls. The first hour we give to manual training or to games. One of the principal pleasures this year has been found in making designs with postage stamps. Our boys have been particularly eager to decorate



THE McALL POST AT NICE, DIRECTOR MALAN IN THE DOORWAY

their copy books with these. But it takes a good deal of ingenuity to keep on suggesting new forms of amusement. Sometimes we give the children a little "spread" and this is always very welcome. One attraction which would be most valuable and which we should be so happy to have would be a moving picture apparatus. The thing which rejoices us above all else is the attention which the children give to the Bible lessons and their responses to our questions. They are good listeners as their memories show. If the problem of recreation is sometimes a difficult one, the Bible lessons are always a pleasure. Many doors have been opened to us by the mediation of our children and the visits which give us most joy are those which have been made possible by the boys and girls of our school.

Not one of the least of our delights is the service which we have been able to render to the churches. In one of these, the chief he'per of the pastor today is a girl who was won to



THE ANNUNCIATION

the Gospel by the Mission. In another church another of our girls recently graduated from our Thursday School is frequently called on to play the violin. A pupil at the Conservatory of Music she has distinguished herself and often gives us at the hall the pleasure of hearing her.

The weekly meeting of mothers and young women always shows a faithful attachment to the Mission. Silly or malicious banter is never heard there. The women knit or sew while they are read to and a religious service always concludes the afternoon. My wife and daughter conduct these meetings and find great joy in doing so.

The evangelistic services on Sunday are held at 5 and 8.30, respectively. In the evening there are always a number who were not present in the afternoon, but as the days lengthen the afternoon audiences fall off and we are obliged to discontinue this meeting entirely during the summer months.

Just a word in conclusion about our window exhibits. These are composed of Biblical literature and pictures and anti-alcoholic brochures and are changed as often as possible. Every day from morning to night people stop and study our windows. No one can tell the good this silent evangelization accomplishes.

To all the friends who are helping us with their substantial and devoted aid and, above all, to God whose blessing continues we extend the deepfelt gratitude of our hearts.

"LA VILLETTE"

Mlle A. GARDIOL

The housing shortage, which has caused so many lamentable situations, has affected our hall also inasmuch as many of our families have been obliged to leave their old neighborhood and to find lodgings in quarters too far removed to permit the children to attend our schools and the parents our evening meetings. This fact has cut the attendance at our Sunday meeting in half and has reduced the size of our Sunday and Thursday Schools.

Another serious circumstance robbed us of three of our young girls. Their parents quarrelled and last October the father took his children and moved to Drancy, leaving his wife alone with as much of the furniture as he did not wish to take with him. This poor woman now works in a restaurant.

One of our widows remarried and by strict economy was able to buy a small house at Mitry where she now runs a very profitable poultry farm. This robbed us of two very fine and very regular boys. Then, Mme L..... was forced to put her boy in a boarding school. (Being a widow and compelled to work outside, the boy was left too much to himself and became wayward.) This means a real sacrifice for the mother but it was absolutely necessary for the welfare of the child. She is able to come only occasionally to our meetings, but whenever I visit her we always read the Bible and pray together. I believe her heart is absolutely attached to Christ and she prays daily for her son. Her greatest desire is that he may become a true Christian. Her mother-in-law, a strict Catholic, said to her recently: "My dear, your religion is far more just and far more beautiful than mine; have your boy baptized at Easter." You can imagine the joy of our friend who had prayed for just that for sometime.

One of our old friends had for more than nine months suffered in her feet. Twice a week a sister of charity came to bandage her and one day, on seeing the daily prayer calendar of the *Société Centrale*, she said: "That is Protestant isn't it?" "Yes, sister, would you like the pages I have torn off?" "Oh no, I must ask permission of the Mother Superior first." "Oh, just you take those pages I have read and you will see how the Protestants talk about Jesus Christ." And the sister departed with the torn-off pages.

As has been his habit for years, M. Lockert speaks at the Mothers' Meeting every Monday. Last October, he started a course in religious instruction and the mothers find this very interesting. A poor, old woman, who has been kept home by an affliction in her knees, drags herself to these meetings because she does not want to miss this chance of instruction. "And I heard everything he said," she confided to me. "Here even the deaf can hear and I am very happy to come."

M. R..... is greatly feared in his own home. He comes in very often under the influence of alcohol and then, beware! At such times the children do not want to eat, and at the slightest provocation the furniture is flung about the room. One day his wife appeared with four gashes in her cheeks—this charming husband had thrown his fork at her across the table. Another time, little Roger arrived at the hall with his head bandaged . . . the father in a fit of anger had thrown a plate at him and cut open his forehead. The frightened mother had taken the boy to the hospital to have his head bandaged; but what a chagrin it is to see the large scar on his forehead which will never disappear. At Christmas the youngest one prevailed upon his father, who would not listen to anything concerning our hall, to come to the Christmas tree. He became so interested in the stories of M. Chastand and M. Lockert that he promised to come to some of the meetings with his wife. Unfortunately, he has not entirely stopped drinking, but he has changed considerably nevertheless and I was deeply moved as I heard his wife say, "He has done no more harm."

Mme L..... has just had a great joy. Her granddaughter had run away from home with an undesirable young man and had not been heard from for three years—three years which seemed like centuries to the old grandmother. Was she really going to die without knowing the fate of this poor child! Every time I saw her she spoke to me of the girl and asked that I pray for her. "I pray constantly for her myself, I can think of nothing else," she said. Then at Christmas she received a letter from Constantine, her dear granddaughter, and here is in substance what it said: "My dearest grandmother. The memory of you never leaves me. Please do not cry, your prayers have been answered, for I feel that you have been praying for me and I thank you. I have left the man that led me astray and have taken some work. Soon I shall marry a fine young man and we shall start a decent life together." Two photographs accompanied the letter and the young man wrote, "Your future grandson who is anxious to know his good grandmother."

M. J., old and sick, was taken in by one of our grandmothers, a distant cousin, in order that she might care for him. Every Monday afternoon and often on Sunday evenings they would both come, the one sustaining the other. He had been seriously ill for a few days only, but he knew that it meant the end. "I am going to die," he said. "Do you want me to send for the priest?" she asked him. "Oh no, I have no need of him, but sing for me: 'I Rest in Thee, O Jesus, My Saviour.'" Those were his last words.

A boy of ten, the son of a drunkard, said to me: "Mademoiselle, you do not know how happy I am now that I can come regularly to your school. Before, I was always in trouble, running after the trucks and tearing my clothes and papa would beat me severely. Here everyone is so kind. I would like to stay always. I never touch wine. I do not want to become a drunkard Everybody is so unhappy at home! My sister and I are doing our best to prevent mother from drinking, we would love so to have a mother that did not drink." "You must pray God to save your dear mother, as I have prayed for her for more than two years." "Oh Mademoiselle, I do thank you, for you know my sister and I have done so for a long time." This answer warmed my heart and I thank God for what has been accomplished in the heart of this little disinherited but faithful soul.

IN THE DISPENSARY

Mlle GRASSMUCK

In the last six months, 661 treatments were given in addition to 537 administered in the people's homes. The children of the *Ecole de Garde* have been, as usual, examined regularly by the doctor and turned over for consultation to specialists when needed. The dentist's examinations are always followed with enthusiasm. We have also seen to it that our children were treated with antitoxin against diphtheria. It is the doctor's verdict that their general health has improved, especially in the case of those who have had the benefit of the vacation colony. But there are still many cases of pale faces, swollen glands, undernourishment and the like for which

alcoholism is responsible and which the doctor diagnoses under the general term physiological misery.

In co-operation with the anti-tuberculosis dispensaries, we have been able to exercise a general oversight of many adults, of young men and young women threatened with this frightful malady which is responsible for such terrible ravages at Nantes. This work, I am happy to say, is truly efficacious. For example, the father of a family who last year gave us much anxiety, after being especially cared for in the sanatorium, has regained his health and is again able to support his little family. Many young people, thanks to the tonics which we have regularly given them, have taken on weight and seem to have reached the stage of successful resistance to the tuberculosis germ.

On Thursdays the members of the infant school and of the older grades are always present in unusual numbers. My "infants" are always eager to sing. The Bible lessons awaken great interest and they love the stories of Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Esau which even the very young ones repeat with enthusiasm and with shining eyes.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor maintains its numbers in a most encouraging fashion. There are always from twenty to twenty-five seated around the big conference table. The interest in these gatherings has truly increased. The informal debates we hold are more successful than ever. The girls have gained the courage to tell us what they think and the exchange of ideas adds much life to our meetings. We have had talks on literature, on missions and on peace. Our Biblical studies have been followed with serious and earnest attention. Notwithstanding the difficulties which some rather trying characters create, the sum total of our efforts spells progress, religious progress among some and among the majority genuine attachment to the society and a feeling of responsibility.

The monthly prayer-meeting for women is always faithfully followed. Among those who come, there are many who attend at the end of a hard day's work in the factory to which is added daily the task of motherhood and often of widowed motherhood. Their zeal proves the reality of their sense of

religious need as well as their desire to feed their famished souls and to gain inspiration and strength for their daily toil.

My many visits bring me continually into the presence of distressing cases of need. The most harrowing of such cases during the past year was that of a drinker's wife, mother of two children and her husband in jail. The children were two and one-half years and ten months, respectively, a third being expected three months later. When the poor mother, who went to the Maternity Hospital in the capacity of a servant, came out with her newly-born some weeks later, the Society of Public Aid, which was temporarily caring for her two eldest children, told her that they could do nothing more for her. This society, in fact, concerns itself only with children whose mothers have abandoned them. This was not the case with this brave woman, but such was her situation. Seeing no possibility of help from her husband, who had been discharged from prison, she sought divorce. This meant that she must earn her living for herself and her three children, as a chamber-maid, with the help of the National Birth Society (60 francs a month) which we secured for her as rapidly as possible, at the same time interesting in her certain individuals who might help. It is impossible to describe the tragedy of existence of a woman thus left alone with her children.

We could easily cite other poignant cases of distress, due to sickness, to the accidents of labor, to idleness. In a single week, sometimes in a single day, we see pass before us many cases of such tragedy, which means in each case an appeal to the Bureau of Help, or other organizations.

On the other hand, our visits are often the occasion of real joy and this, in particular, in cases in which we have seen what the Gospel has done to transform the hearts and souls of our friends who have been truly won to Christ. There are, for example, families deeply rooted in genuine piety, who without sentimentality, but translating their faith into character, face life's happenings with serenity and calm. Being called often, however, to visit families who are entirely without contact with the *Fraternité*, I can measure by comparison the contrast with the lives of those whose souls the Gospel has refined, made

serious, given dignity and touched with a true delicacy of feeling. On a hospital visit to one of our brothers who was called home during the winter, I found him in a state of great anxiety over his wife, asking me to go to see her to encourage her, more concerned, in fact, with her welfare than with his own illness and when the time came to follow his body to the cemetery, despite their profound grief, his wife and daughter showed by their calmness and control, so different from the ordinary lamentations and violent demonstrations in such cases, how real and living was their faith in the eternal life.

ST. NAZAIRE

H. GARNIER

It is with deep gratitude to God that we present our report of the past year. Our work, though very young, shows many signs of permanence and of a future of conquest in this factory city. Many instances justify this affirmation. First of all, there is the perfect good will with which the local press inserts announcements of our celebrations of which they also print long and faithful accounts. Then, there is the acclaim, in particular on the part of the representatives and spokesmen of the working-men who being in a large majority cannot be suspected of working for electoral results. Again, there is the number of the educated class who frequent our reading room and, finally, I would mention the request of a doctor, a municipal counsellor and a Socialist, that we should hold anti-alcoholic conferences in his *faubourg*.

Of course, all this is not strictly "religious" work and yet is it not an evidence of the manifest progress we are making in extending the principles of the Gospel?

With our audiences more or less numerous, more or less nondescript from the social and religious point of view, our weekly meetings during the past year have been very successful. Of course, we realize that the attendance will vary according to the social interest in the subject advertised. This is the more true because of the fact that St. Nazaire is a small city, very much spread out and that there are in it all kinds of political, syndical, sportive and mutual organizations. We have, for

instance, a larger group when we advertise a meeting on the subject of "Peace vs. War," or at an anti-alcoholic gathering, or at the Easter and Christmas celebrations, than at one of our social-religious conferences. The moving pictures, or stereopticon films, also add to the attractiveness of these special meetings, but we realize the advantage of all these "attractions" to bring men to our hall in the hope of ultimately winning them. The announcement of a religious service is not the surest means of getting the indifferent to come, nor can one in the beginning use the language of the preacher. He must talk the language of his hearers, free of all rhetoric, but persuasive because it carries the accent of a sincere conviction.

When we consider that, because of the daily responsibilities we have to carry at Nantes, we can give but ten or twelve hours a month to St. Nazaire, we bless God for the results we have obtained. If forty-five of our friends subscribed to the *Solidarité Social* and to the *Bon Messager*; if eighty have posted on the walls of their apartments the Family Almanac; if in sixty homes there hangs on the wall the Religious Calendar, this all means that among the *habitués* of the St. Nazaire *Fraternité* a genuine Christian work has begun.

One of our best friends, formerly a militant Socialist, who employs eight men and women, was asked by me to tack up on the wall of his shop one of our hand-bills. In view of his business, however, I suggested that perhaps this would not be prudent, but he immediately replied, "I am free, you can count on me," and at once showed me a poster he had put up exhibiting a scene at family prayers. "That," he said, "will prove to you that since I began coming to the *Fraternité* three years ago I have had an entirely different idea of religion."

During the past winter we had a great chance to attract the attention of the public to our work, its spirit and its purpose. This was a *soirée artistique* organized in one of the largest halls of the city. The *Unionistes* of La Rochelle gave a play of Paul Spack entitled, "In Spite of Those Who Fall" (*Malgré Ceux Qui Tombent*). This play, dated at the beginning of the Reformation, very bold and in telling incidents emphasizing liberty of conscience and toleration, as well as containing some of the famous retorts of the obscurantism and

autocracy of the Church of Rome, captivated the audience. Shortly after one of the local journalists said, "You should repeat this, you would have a full hall."

I must speak in closing of the dreadful condition of idleness from which our little city has suffered this year. As far as our feeble means would go and thanks to the Mission we were able to reduce somewhat the frightful distress among our friends.

Thanks to God we can foresee a splendid future harvest in His work at St. Nazaire. If we are requested to come here and there to give anti-alcoholic conferences; if a distinguished speaker cannot gather over fifteen people to hear one of his discourses in a working-man's Syndicate, while at the *Fraternité* the same month and on the same subject there are four times as many; if an austere Catholic family, whose son had just died, can say to us with tears in their eyes: "*Monsieur*, disappointed in our own religion which in our recent grief has given us no consolation whatever, the only comfort we have had is that which you have brought us," have we not the right to rejoice and to believe that with the aid of God the *Fraternité* will accomplish in human souls a profound work, a profound and eternal work?

HOME DEPARTMENT

Baltimore and Washington

The President of the Association, Mrs. Kelley, visited these Auxiliaries in November, speaking in Baltimore in the Brown Memorial Church. It was voted that the offering taken should be set aside as the nucleus of a memorial fund in memory of the former Baltimore Treasurer and Vice-President for Maryland, Miss Grace W. Fisher. Two legacies of \$500 each were announced, one from the estate of Miss Fisher and another from that of Miss Georgia G. Jones, for years a member of the Auxiliary.

In Washington, Mrs. Kelley was the guest of the Auxiliary at a luncheon at the Woman's University Club and spoke again in the evening at the prayer-meeting in the Church of the Covenant.

**Belvidere and
Easton**

Successful Auxiliary gatherings were held in Belvidere and Easton on December 7th and 8th. The Field Secretary was present on both occasions and showed his slides in illustration of the Mission's recent developments.

**Buffalo and
Toronto**

Miss Flagg, of the National Board and President of the Hartford Auxiliary, reports "delightful times" in Toronto and Buffalo. In the former city she was tendered a reception at the home of Mrs. A. E. Mathews which was attended by members of the Canadian Association as well as of the local Auxiliary and representatives from other Canadian societies. She also spoke at a luncheon at the York Club, given by Mrs. W. E. Rundle, at which she notes especially the "pleasure of sitting next to Mrs. Robert McAll whose enthusiasm for the Mission seems to grow with the years."

In Buffalo, Miss Flagg met, at the North Presbyterian Church, the officers and managers of the Auxiliary, to the number of sixty, repeating her story of Joan of Arc, "The Heavenly Vision." In the evening, at a large dinner at the Town Club, given by Mrs. William A. Mansperger, she spoke a second time. The following day she was the guest of honor at an Auxiliary luncheon at which 275 were present, 30 of these being Juniors. At the close of her talk and at the suggestion of the President of the Auxiliary, Mrs. Slaght, all present made a silent pledge that the Buffalo Auxiliary would raise the extra 25 per cent. asked for by the Association this year. A dinner the same night with the Junior President, Mrs. H. C. Kline, was attended by a group of Juniors who fired at Miss Flagg a fusilade of questions in regard to the Mission indicative of a most intense and determined interest.

At the first Baptist Church on Sunday morning a tablet to Miss Anne Burrows, for thirty years Secretary to the Buffalo Auxiliary, was unveiled. The presentation was made by Mrs. Slaght. A poem, "In loving memory of Anne Burrows," was read by Mrs. Hauenstein and the choir sang the Marseillaise.

Hartford

The President and officers of the Hartford Auxiliary have evidently made up their minds to go over the top again another year. At the first fall meeting the summer savings bags, which had been distributed in June to be filled with the amounts saved by "little economies," were returned and when the pennies, nickels, dimes and dollars were all counted, it was found that the total amount had reached \$270. The address of the occasion was made by Mrs. Burr who told in a most fascinating way of her summer visits to McAll stations. On November 23d occurred the Christmas Sale. This was held in the beautiful home of Mrs. Frank T. Prentice. Among the attractions offered was a table of imported articles, including etchings of the Rheims Cathedral which proved to be so popular that orders were taken for a dozen more. When these are paid for, the total sum realized will be well over \$1000.

Mrs. Wickham, formerly President of the Auxiliary and who has recently returned from a trip to the Far East, has agreed to give a series of lantern talks on her experiences there. It is hoped that these talks will yield another substantial sum toward the Auxiliary's receipts.

**"McAll Week" in
the Twin Cities**

Mrs. Dean and Miss Williams, Presidents, respectively, of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Auxiliaries, arranged for a series of meetings covering an entire week in November. The early days of this week were dedicated to Miss Congdon, as per the statement on page 31 under "National Junior Committee." The Field Secretary arrived the middle of the week and, beginning with a Silver Tea at the home of Mrs. James Paige, gave all told seven talks concluding with an address to the Congregational Ministers' Meeting at their Monday luncheon. On the way home, Mr. Berry made stops at Chicago and Springfield.

Orange

A stereopticon talk was given by the Field Secretary in the parish house of the Munn Avenue Presbyterian Church. The offering was donated toward the cost of drilling a well for the new Vacation Colony, at *Coqueréaumont*.

Plainfield

On November 26th, a large reception was tendered Mrs. Kelley at the home of Mrs. A. M. Harris, on Hillside Avenue. Mrs. Kelley's address was received with much enthusiasm. A noteworthy fact was the presence of three ex-Presidents of the Auxiliary.

Presidents' Conference

The Presidents' Conference was held on November 9th at 5 East 48th Street, the New York Bible Society. The theme, "Forward March for the Kingdom of God," was chosen from the life slogan adopted by M. Chastand twenty-five years ago, when he graduated from the university. The latest news from the Mission was reported by various visitors to France during the past summer. A most encouraging account of the Junior work was given and auxiliary plans were recited to the interest of all present. The new Christmas-card was introduced as well as the "Ticket" for use in Sunday Schools. Many urgent prayers were offered for the increase of God's Kingdom in France and the Conference closed with a most impressive ceremony, drawn from the relighting of the flame over the tomb of the unknown soldier.

Four gifts, totaling \$3500, were made toward the "Twenty-five per cent. extra" asked of the Auxiliaries this year.

NATIONAL JUNIOR COMMITTEE

Mrs. Henry F. Boardman, the representative of the Junior work on the National Board, spent an evening recently in New Brunswick, speaking to the French class of the Women's College. This was at once a lesson in French for the girls of the class as well as a move on the part of the President of the New Brunswick Auxiliary looking toward the organization of a Junior group. Much interest was evidenced in Mrs. Boardman's talk and in the pictures of the Mission which, as Miss Janeway wrote, were "most enlightening."

Before sailing for France, on November 21st, Miss Congdon made a hurried visit to Minneapolis and St. Paul on the

joint invitation of Mrs. Dean and Miss Williams. In many talks with individuals and small groups at luncheons and church suppers, as well as in her platform appearances, Miss Congdon awakened much interest in "McAll," which should lead in the near future to the organization of Junior auxiliaries in each of the twin cities. On the way home she stopped at Milwaukee and Chicago with a view to conferences later on in these cities.

Miss Congdon was also recently in Washington and according to reports from that city has set on foot a new Junior society, as she has also done in Springfield and other cities.

Miss Congdon's visit to France is in response to a request from Miss Patterson and in the interest of a more complete coöperation between the student work in Paris and the Juniors at home. She will lengthen her stay to participate in the Christmas fêtes of the Mission of which on her return she will doubtless have many fascinating stories to tell.



MAISONETTE "VIRGINIA," BOYS' MEMORIAL DORMITORY AT "COQUERÉAUMONT"

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION FROM AUXILIARIES AND CHURCHES

October 5—December 5, 1928—\$12,645.75

MASSACHUSETTS, \$348.00

Andover Circle	\$17 00
Boston Auxiliary	54 00
Lexington	42 00
Newton Centre	2 00
Pittsfield Auxiliary	107 00
Springfield Auxiliary	126 00

CONNECTICUT, \$3,075.00

Hartford Auxiliary	\$1,173 00
Hartford Junior Auxiliary ..	41 00
New Haven Auxiliary	1,836 00
Windsor	25 00

NEW YORK, \$2,637.39

Brooklyn Auxiliary	\$86 00
Brooklyn Junior Group	30 00
Buffalo Auxiliary	497 50
Buffalo Junior Auxiliary ...	54 00
Ithaca Circle	11 34
New York Auxiliary	994 00
New York Junior Auxiliary..	667 55
New York	20 00
Rochester Auxiliary	187 00
Troy Auxiliary	90 00

NEW JERSEY, \$1,486.85

Elizabeth Auxiliary	\$71 10
Elizabeth Relief Depot	14 00
Montclair Auxiliary	657 00
Morristown	72 00
Newark Auxiliary	64 00
Auxiliary of the Oranges ...	572 75
Plainfield Auxiliary	36 00

PENNSYLVANIA, \$2,063.40

Chester Auxiliary	\$72 00
Drexel Hill	40 00

PENNSYLVANIA—Continued

Easton Auxiliary	\$165 00
Philadelphia Auxiliary	1,114 50
Legacy, Eleanor A. Simes ...	267 90
Philadelphia	36 00
Pittsburgh Auxiliary	250 00
West Chester Auxiliary	100 00
Wilkes-Barre Auxiliary	18 00

MARYLAND, \$536.00

Baltimore Auxiliary	\$36 00
Legacy, Miss Grace W. Fisher	500 00

MINNESOTA, \$178.00

Minneapolis Auxiliary	\$100 00
Minneapolis Junior Auxiliary	3 00
St. Paul Auxiliary	50 00
St. Paul Junior Auxiliary....	25 00

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, \$170.00

Washington Auxiliary	\$170 00
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DELAWARE, \$45.00

Wilmington Auxiliary	\$45 00
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CALIFORNIA, \$5.00

San Diego	\$5 00
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ILLINOIS, \$100.00

Chicago	\$100 00
Per Collection Presidents' Conference	29 00
Per National Juniors	1,000 00
Per National Children's Auxiliary	43 00
Per Sale Christmas Cards ...	552 61
Per Needlework Guild of America	376 50

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR REAL ESTATE

I do give and devise to the American McAll Association the following described property.

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR PERSONAL ESTATE

I do give, devise and bequeath to the American McAll Association the sum of _____ dollars.

THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

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